

~~SECRET~~

STAT

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 00388-86
24 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: Robert D. Vickers, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT: Latin America Warning and Forecast Meeting
January 1986

1. The following items were discussed at the Intelligence Community's Warning and Forecast Meeting held on 22 January 1986.

Haiti

2. Although anti-government demonstrations have subsided during the past few days, tension remains high in several Haitian towns. This latest round of demonstrations was more widespread and longer-lasting than the last (1985). The threat to President Duvalier is considered far greater than it has been in the past. While the demonstrations are believed to have been economic in origin, they quickly took on a political coloration and as they continued, many of those close to the President began to consider ways of saving their positions at the expense of the President. The most serious challenge lies among the old-guard Duvalierists, but this element would need the support, or at least the acquiescence, of the security forces. The unrest seems to have run its course for now, but has demonstrated the vulnerability of the President, the readiness of the Duvalierists to turn on the President and the uncertain loyalty of the security forces. The radical left is reported to be watching developments from exile but has not yet decided on a course of action. Any successor to President Duvalier would most likely be from among the ranks of the old-guard Duvalierists and would be faced with a period of anarchy or at least serious unrest before the situation calmed down.

Warning Issue: If economic and political conditions deteriorate further, more illegal immigrants will attempt to leave for the United States, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. Following this latest round of unrest, Cuba and the Haitian radical left may decide to exploit a highly volatile situation.

~~SECRET~~

STAT

SECRET

STAT

25X1

El Salvador

3. President Duarte unveiled his long-awaited economic austerity program on 21 January. The initial reaction was one of guarded relief by all since it was not as severe as had been expected. The private sector has been mollified considerably, and labor has found the package far "softer" than it had anticipated. Duarte may have brought himself a few months of breathing space before some of the measures begin to pinch. The key period will probably be April to June. The military, which has become more critical of the President in recent months, will probably support his program even though many will remain suspicious of his motives and those of the Christian Democrats. Labor seems to have concluded that a period of observation is called for until they can determine what the full impact of the austerity measures will be. The President's efforts to convince the populace that the measures were needed and will be fairly applied have helped to defuse the situation. Thus far he has played it very well.

Warning Issue: If Duarte begins to vacillate on some of the more sensitive portions of the program and gives in to the demands of organized labor for more concessions, the military will become critical and begin to press for more control over his decisions and actions. Furthermore, right-wing opponents may attempt to conspire with the military to undermine Duarte's policies, and the insurgents may attempt to sponsor popular demonstrations and strikes.

25X1

Contadora

4. Nicaragua has supported a communique by the Contadora Group and Contadora Support Group calling for renewed efforts to conclude a draft Contadora Treaty. In signing the declaration, Nicaragua has apparently given new support to national reconciliation, but at the same time wants

SECRET

STAT

SECRET 

STAT

to resume bilateral talks with the United States. It remains to be seen if Managua will insist on bilateral talks as a precondition to further Treaty negotiations, but it almost certainly will resist a dialogue with the armed opposition.

Warning Issue: Nicaragua may sign a Contadora Agreement if necessary to undercut US legislative proposals to provide lethal aid to the Nicaraguan resistance.

25X1


Robert D. Vickers, Jr.SECRET 

STAT

Page Denied

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied